

03500.014620.1



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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
	:	Examiner: Omar Flores-Sanchez
Noriyoshi UEDA, et al.)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 3724
Application No.: 10/654,986)	
	:	Confirmation No.: 5648
Filed: September 5, 2003)	
	:	
For: SHEET PUNCHING DEVICE AND)	March 7, 2006
IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS	:	
HAVING THE SAME)	

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

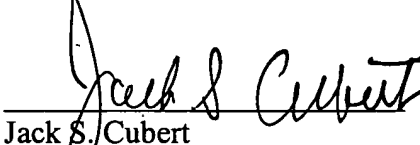
Sir:

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended toward their representative during the telephone interview conducted on February 13, 2006.

In the interview, Applicants' attorney inquired whether the Examiner had considered the common ownership of the reference U.S. Patent 6,386,080 (Okamoto, et al.) and the present application so that Okamoto, et al. does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103. See 35 U.S.C. § 103(c); "Guidelines Setting Forth a Modified Policy Concerning the Evidence of Common Ownership, or an Obligation of Assignment to the Same Person, as Required by 35 U.S.C. 103(c)," 1241 O.G. 96 (Dec. 26, 2000). The Examiner indicated that he had not considered the common ownership.

Applicants' undersigned attorney, William M. Wannisky, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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